

THE HOUGHTON STAR

NOVEMBER 8, 1991 • VOLUME 84.6

Martha Ayres & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors



Peace in the Middle East?

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE
MADRID PEACE CONFERENCE

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THE HOUGHTON
STAR ★

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THE HOUGHTON STAR is a bi-weekly student publication; its focus is on events, issues and ideas which significantly affect the Houghton College community. Letters (signed) are encouraged and accepted for publication; however, they must not constitute a personal attack, they must be submitted by noon on Monday, and they should be no longer than two double spaced pages. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

On the Systematic Implosion of Airborne Castles

by Ivan T. Rocha

Someone once said that the abuse of power should not be surprising. The author of the statement, a feminist artist, is known to have penned other similar statements about society and has been labeled a bitter cynic as a result. It seems somewhat hasty and not altogether justifiable to call someone a cynic who is merely verbalizing an insight he or she had about the nature of humanity. The truth, it seems, is that people are not interested in being confronted with

the depressing reality of what it means to live in an imperfect world, but rather prefer to live under the illusion that perfection (some would say holiness) is attainable in the here and now. This, in itself, is nothing new.

In fact, the illusion that perfection is a goal worthy of pursuit is almost as old as humanity itself and demonstrates the inability of mankind to grasp once and for all that man is *not* the measure of all things (hence also the inutility of idealism). Rather, people continue to believe

that by their own efforts they can alter reality and human nature and secure, as a result, the happiness their imperfect souls yearn for. Evangelical Christians are no exception. In fact, entire denominations base their faith on the idea that perfection is attainable in this life, and posit, as a result, unrealistically stringent expectations of conduct as preconditions to this end, losing sight of their own fallenness and the intrinsic imperfection of human precepts in the process.

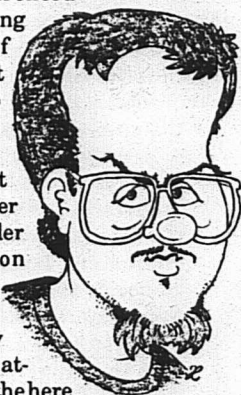
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The book-burning obscurantism and pharisaic legalism of much of the extreme evangelical right is as good an evidence as any of the inability of some Christians to accept their humanity and its limitations. That is to say, in the attempt to achieve an illusive moral purity many will simply bury their heads in the sand and refuse to look at anything that reminds them of the reality of what it

means to be human. Anything that is not overtly "christian" is automatically labeled unfit for consumption lest one become "contaminated" by the "world" and its evil. And, anyone who chooses to contest this view is seen as dangerous, cynical, liberal, and subversive.

All of this is not to say that there are no precepts worth following. Certainly there is room for human love which, despite its obvious shortcomings, is still capable of alleviating some of the pain of human existence, for by loving it is possible to escape momentarily the drudgery of this life. In love, humans are capable of creating for each other something akin to an alternate reality where, for brief moments, the unwritten rules of fallenness are ignored and happiness is possible. Yet even love is tainted by selfishness in one form or another. Not to love, however, removes from human existence the last shred of hope for comfort in an utterly absurd and ever hostile world. Suicide, then, becomes an extremely attractive option if not for the realization that there is an ultimate being in control of human destiny.

It seems, then, that to love as well as one can is the only way to avoid despair. Even so, to live in a fallen world is to flirt daily with pain, bewilderment, and anxiety. To deny the corruption of the human race is to deny reality as we know it. While redemption and communion with the divine should facilitate our efforts to love, they do not seem to alter the basic drives of a fallen nature. Thus to live with the constant realization of one's own imperfection is at the same time a source of extreme despair and profound release. It is liberating to realize that there is no point to human existence beyond the loving of one's neighbor (and even that for reasons ultimately incomprehensible to us as humans) and that everything else, as someone once put it, is a striving after the wind. ☆



Peace in the Middle East?

Report and Commentary on the Middle East Peace Talks in Madrid by Joel T. Tate

The first round of talks between Arabs and Israelis in Madrid went from being improbable to actual and is not a historical event. With matters of substance coming in importance after the sound bite and photo opportunity the much touted conference was often no more than a media banquet. But for all of the hype and lack of content the Middle East peace process is now moving in the direction of genuine dialogue.

The peace conference was the result of eight months of shuttle diplomacy by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He accomplished the unlikely by convincing Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Egypt to go to Madrid and speak to delegates from Israel, a nation whose very existence these Arab countries with the exception of Egypt fail to recognize

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They came reluctantly and apparently under duress from the United States and other world powers, and they came with conflicting demands.



Lebanon wants Israel to withdraw from its "security zone" in the south Lebanon and

Syria wants the return of the Golan Heights but Israel sees the possession of these two areas as being vital to its national security. Jordan wants an agreement on water rights, but Israel is reluctant to make any commitments for fear of ruling out future settlements on the West Bank. The Egyptians demand the negotiations not continue until the Israelis give up their occupied territories. Nevertheless, Israel has been adamant in the area of land for peace.

Oddly the Palestinian demand for an independent homeland is the one where the Israelis appear most malleable. Israel itself has demands that the Arabs are not about to meet. Israel wants to keep all of the land that they control now while gaining formal recognition from Arab nations.

All of the built-in hurdles to the peace process considered, it is remarkable that the process has taken participants as far as it has. The first day of the conference was given over to speeches by Bush and Gorbachev. Their speeches avoided detail and were

carefully tailored to please all of the parties.

The next three days were spent discussing the location of the next round of bilateral talks. The issue of location became heated, and the matter of future talks jeopardized the peace conference itself. Israel demanded that the talks be alternately held

After four days of peace talks the participants were still unsure about where the next round would be held despite rumors that the talks would move to Washington regardless of Israeli objections.

in Damascus and Israel, a demand which Syria vehemently opposes. Syria feels to accept an Israeli delegation in Damascus or send a Syrian delegation to Israel would be a de facto recognition of the Israeli State. Then too, Palestinian delegates going to talks in Israel would be subject to laws and curfews there that apply to Palestinians; it would not be an atmosphere conducive to peace talks. The Israelis weakly protested that the cost of carrying on peace talks outside of the region would be inhibitive.

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On Monday Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir indicated that there was now the possibility of a compromise on the location of the next round of talks.

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objections.

Defying all precedent and working in what a joint statement described as "a good, businesslike atmosphere" the Israelis sat down on Sunday and talked with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Amazing in and of themselves were the bilateral talks between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon.

On Monday Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir indicated that there was now the possibility of a compromise on the location of the next round of talks. It would appear at this point in the process that the next round will take place in two weeks either in Washington or at a location in Canada. The subject of the bilateral talks will be Palestinian autonomy which Baker hopes to see

in some form within a year.

Hopes are high for the continued success of the peace process. A bases has been established for earnest and effective dialogue between parties traditionally more prone to spit at each other than to shake hands. But Syria is skittish, Israel resolutely unpredictable, and the PLO spiteful. Speaking about the prospects for further regional talks Baker said: "There can't be guarantees. This is the Middle East." ☆

But Syria is skittish, Israel resolutely unpredictable, and the PLO spiteful. Speaking about the prospects for further regional talks Baker said: "There can't be guarantees. This is the Middle East."

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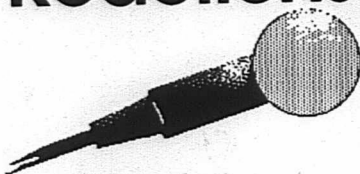
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Public Reactions



by Martha Ayres

The Question:
Why do you sit in this
general area of the
cafeteria?



**"D", "Rich", "Uri",
"Eddy", "Cub", "Gary",
and "Sturgess"**

This group likes to "chill with the brothers." They think that the quad side is the best side; "the athletic side." "Do you see any black people over there? One of us sits here, we all do." "They are bookworms over there." "We like sitting with our friends."



**Nate Ransil, John Hall,
and Dan Noyes**

These three sit on the quad side of the cafeteria because they like that line, all of their friends sit there, it's the athletic side, and they say that it has become habit. Also, they claim that they just all around like that side of the campus center better.



**Justin Carabello,
LeslieAnne Harry,
Kristen Lloyd, and Karen
Bartlett**

This group likes sitting in the back and center of the cafeteria "because the jocks sit over there and the humanities sit on the other side, and the rest of us are in the middle." "The center is where all of the action is."



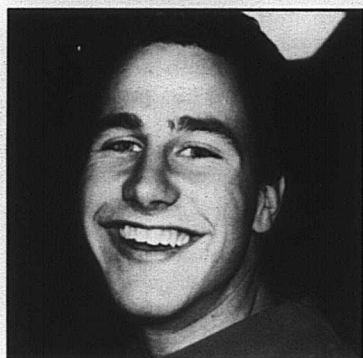
**Brenda Verbrugge, Gary
Salvione, Jill Stoddard,
and Christ Otto**

These four like to sit "from the middle to the art side." "All of the jocks sit over there," "we like the way people over here act better," and Christ said that he just very much appreciates the ambiance on the road-facing side of the cafeteria.



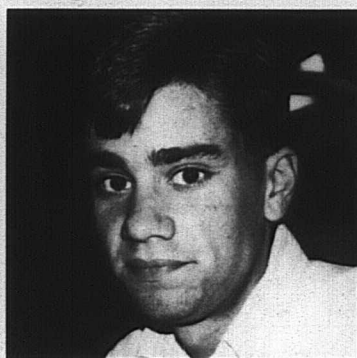
**Sherry, Sonja, Salal,
Nicole, and Evie**

These girls tend to sit on the quad side of the cafeteria because "all the athletes sit over here." They said that it is because during pre-season only the one side of the cafeteria is open, and it becomes habit.



Dan Blank

Dan sits in the middle of the cafeteria generally. He says that it is "the most convenient" for him. He also said that the road side of the room seems "gloomy" and the quad side is a bit "loud," so the middle seems the place to go.



Andy Tressler

He usually sits toward the quad side of the cafeteria "because the food is better, and it's closer." He did also say that his choice of seating does have "a little to do with the athletes."



Rich Towers

Rich responded, "Having worshipped asphalt for most of my life, I am inextricably drawn towards Route 19."



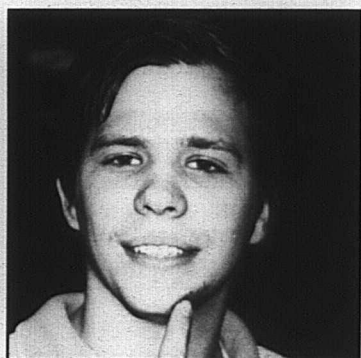
John Chong

He likes to sit in the back, in the center usually, "because I always have." "You know, there are your typical sides; the athletes, and the, I don't know - they are different." "The center is kind of middle of the road, not athletes, not overly intellectual." "I've sat here ever since I stopped soccer."



Christopher Williams

He sits in the center of the cafeteria, because he says that "the round tables and the general darkness, and the whole atmosphere makes me think of a medieval castle." Thus he likes to sit at the round tables.



Doug Stockwell

"Because I'm a klutz, and can't paint worth a darn, so I sit in the middle."

Athletics and Money in the Small Liberal Arts College

by Jim Hilliard

While college athletic programs across the United States are being scrutinized because of the apparent lack of solid education for their athletes, Houghton College's athletic program is producing dean's list members.

"Students involved in the athletic programs often do bet-

"Students involved in the athletic programs often do better during their season because of the realized need for a time schedule," said Houghton Dean of Students Robert Danner. "They know that they have only a certain amount of time to complete their studies and they do it."

ter during their season because of the realized need for a time schedule," said Houghton Dean of Students Robert Danner. "They know that they have only a certain amount of time to complete their studies and they do it."

Eric Webb, a junior soccer player agrees with Danner. He says, "I take my more difficult courses during soccer season, because I know that I will make time to do the work. During the

off-season, I have more time to do as I please, so I do." Webb says that he feels that the academic atmosphere at Houghton requires him to work harder in his studies, and that his athletic involvement increases the expectation that he will do well.

A former student of a division one college said that money was the biggest factor in the exploitation of athletes at the cost of their studies. "It's all money," said Ron Whiting, a transfer student at Houghton from Conesius College. "they have a big image to put up and it doesn't matter what they have to do to keep that image and keep the money coming in."

Danner concurs that problems at larger institutions often relate to money. Danner describes Houghton's money/sports

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relationship, "We really don't

have much to gain monetarily from our athletic program. The athletic program is only in its 21st year and has not matured to the point where we stand to gain from television and gate receipts. As a result, coaches can encourage students to concentrate on their studies."

While attributing the problems at larger schools to money, Danner said that one of the biggest reasons for the relative lack of athletic/academic problems at Houghton and similar institutions is the overall philosophy of education at the small liberal arts college. He says that

He says that Houghton's professors would not think of fixing grades and transcripts because their number one concern is educating students, and they realize that an academic reputation is more enduring than an athletic reputation.

Houghton's professors would not think of fixing grades and transcripts because their number one concern is educating students, and they realize that an academic reputation is more enduring than an athletic reputation.

Because of its involvement in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Houghton is required to keep its eligibility levels high. For example, student athletes are required to successfully complete a minimum number of academic hours in the previous two semesters and to hold a quality point average of 2.00. These high eligibility standards help to keep Houghton and other liberal arts colleges out of academic trouble within their athletic de-

partments.

As Webb mentioned, Houghton's academic atmosphere puts pressure on the athlete to keep up with his studies. Danner expounds on this idea, differentiating between the teaching methods at small liberal arts colleges and large universities. "At a larger institution, you see freshmen, sophomore, and even junior courses taught by graduate students. At Houghton, you have Carl Schultz, a PhD. from Brandeis, teaching Biblical Literature and Charles Bressler, who earned his doctorate from the University of Georgia teaching Principles of Writing," said Danner.

Danner also detailed some of the philosophies associated with intercollegiate athletic competition and why those philosophies are not evident at Houghton saying, "Houghton has not even be-

Unless the athlete is involved in multiple sports, these grants do not even cover half of the tuition costs, while ministerial candidates are often awarded a one-half tuition grant just for preparing to enter the ministry. According to Danner, "there are no free rides!"

gun to realize what an intercollegiate sports program can do for things like spirit, reputation, and fund-raising efforts." He mentioned booster clubs as one example. Booster clubs have only recently become a reality at Houghton and have already supplied the sideline chairs for the volleyball and basketball players.

One concern found in the marriage of athletics and aca-

demics in the American college is the prestige associated with a college is based almost exclusively on the athletic program. For example, would a Penn State graduate have an edge over a Houghton student on a job offer, solely because of Penn State's reputation (which exists largely due to their athletic program)? According to Danner, this does not occur often

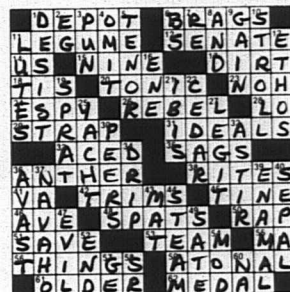
"Houghton has not even begun to realize what an intercollegiate sports program can do for things like spirit, reputation, and fund-raising efforts."

enough to worry about, because most employers would recognize the difference between the educations offered at the larger universities, where professors major in research and the smaller liberal arts colleges, where the professors major in teaching.

Another concern often expressed is one of financial "free rides" offered to college athletes. From Houghton's perspective, no athletes get free rides. Danner explains athletic financial aid as "performance grants." These grants are usually awarded to athletes, but in the past have been awarded to writers and musicians. Unless the athlete is involved in multiple sports, these grants do not even cover half of the tuition costs, while ministerial candidates are often awarded a one-half tuition grant just for preparing to enter the ministry. According to Danner, "there are no free rides!"

While athletes and scholars alike in NCAA division one schools may be cheated in their education as the school seeks money and prestige, the athletes at Houghton and other small liberal arts college are average students, even scholars enhancing their education by incorporating participation in a sport. ☆

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



APHORISMS...

*Fly, envious Time, till thou
run out thy race:*

*Call on the lazy leaden-
stepping hours.*

—Milton, *On Time*

*I like a church; I like a
cow;*

*I love a prophet of the
soul;*

*And on my heart monastic
aisles*

*Fall like sweet strains, or
pensive smiles;*

*Yet not for all his faith can
see,*

*Would I that cowl'd
churchman be.*

—Emerson, *The Problem*

Houghton Recycling: Three Years Later

Report and Commentary by Michael Evans

The Houghton College Recycling Program is alive and well. The recycling bins are in place and are being used consistently, and we are complying with county and state regulations. Are we going any farther with this? Is the job done?

John Garrison, the current recycling coordinator for the college, said that the program is "much more effective this year [but with] a little less visibility." According to him, "We're cutting back from a Cadillac to a Volkswagen program."

The November 1988 issue of *The Houghton Star* featured the environ-

John Garrison, the current recycling coordinator for the college, said that the program is "much more effective this year [but with] a little less visibility." According to him, "We're cutting back from a Cadillac to a Volkswagen program."

ment. Three articles published were: "Is Environmental Stewardship a Christian Duty?" by L. David Wheeler; "The Problem of Styrofoam" by Val Novak; and "The Possibility of Recycling" by Lisa Mosely. The last two articles examined the fact that the college food service used styrofoam

cups and plates and suggested that a recycling program was needed and where it should start.

One year later, in the fall of 1989, a Trash Task Force was chartered. Staff representatives were Rosalind Szymanski from the campus store, John Garrison from maintenance, Ange Szymanski from the custodial department, and Sharon Givler represented the rest of the staff. Dr. James Wolfe Represented the Houghton faculty. Tamara Bence and Joel Corbin spoke for the student body.

The charter states that the purpose of the task force was to research, recommend, and coordinate recycling efforts at Houghton College. The task force was formed because New York State law mandated that all trash be separated by 1992. It was anticipated that tipping fees for unseparated trash would begin to increase since this had already been the case in Cattaraugus County. The charter stated "As a Christian Organization, Houghton College has a responsibility to shepherd our resources: both our stewardship over costs as well as our stewardship over the environment."

In the winter of 1989-1990, a test program was implemented in Luckey Building. Information was gathered from other programs which were already successful. Estimates and samplings determined where recyclable material could be found on campus and

how much of it there was. The community was educated about the program. Individual involvement was explained in staff meetings, memos to new students, a display table, a senior brunch speech, and other media.

The food service contributed to the cause and decided to use paper plates and cups instead of less expensive styrofoam.

By the end of February 1990 gradual implementation of the program had started in Luckey building and was experiencing "growing pains, but good progress and cooperation" according to the minutes for the task force meeting on that date.

Joel Sweda was hired during the summer as the Residence Director Assistant of Shenawana Hall and part-time director of the Houghton Recycling Program. Between six and eight students were hired to collect the office and

The charter stated "As a Christian Organization, Houghton College has a responsibility to shepherd our resources: both our stewardship over costs as well as our stewardship over the environment."

computer paper, glass, cardboard, tin, and certain plastics.

Recycling chapels were held on Earth Day and in September 1990 in order to educate individuals as to how they could get involved with the newly implemented program.

A contest was held at the end of the 90/91 school year to design a logo representing the recycling program at Houghton. The entries were judged by the art department and Sarah Moore emerged the winner. Garrison said, "[The logo] should have been incorporated wherever the trash bins, containers, and signs for recycling are." In reorganizing and streamlining the program, much of the hype, including the

logo, was lost. Garrison said that according to the plan the recycling was to be done by the maintenance department while the publicity was to be taken care of by a "recycling club." Sweda said that the charter for this club has been tied up in the approval stage ever since and, as a result, the club was never formed.

This November, three years after *The Houghton Star* environment articles were published, recycling has taken a back seat to other, seemingly more pertinent issues.

Work, however, still goes on. Sarah Roth, a Houghton senior does part-time clerical work for the maintenance department and serves as the recycling program director for about one hour a week. The work that was being done by six to eight students last year is now being done by the custodial department and freshman Jeff Strickland. The custodians collect office paper, tin cans, and junk mail from the mail room and from the recycling bins in central locations around campus. Strickland collects larger recyclable items such as cardboard and crushes them at the recycling garage behind Gillette House.

Nue Disposal in Cuba, New York, collects both trash and recyclable material from the college. Last year Paper, plastics, glass, and tin were collected by Railroad Valley Recycling in Olean, New York. That organization went bankrupt and Houghton stopped doing business with them in May 1991. Soda cans are sold to Crown Y in Cuba.

Last year, much of the cardboard and newspapers were dumped off at community recycling dumpsters off campus by college workers. "It's not very profitable, except for the small amount received from aluminum cans," said Sweda.

"It is my perception that the campus is fairly satisfied. Time and money management wise we're getting off pretty cheap so far," said Garrison. "Everyone is in compliance [with the] county and statewide [laws]. There is always room for improvement." ☆

AND IN OTHER NEWS

International News and Commentary by Amy Littlejohn

•Twenty-five Soviet immigrant families settled in the Golan Heights, one of the occupied territories of Israel, last week. Israel has also shelled southern Lebanon as a result of attacks on Israeli soldiers. However, there was a Palestinian peace demonstration in the West Bank. It was apparently caused by Israel's recognition of Palestinians as a separate people. The Middle East peace conference has broken up with little or no progress, but there is hope for more talks, perhaps in North America.

•Imelda Marcos has returned to the Philippines. After visiting her hometown, she turned herself in on charges of tax fraud. There have also been floods in the Philippines.

•The Ukraine has at last agreed to join an economic union with several other republics in the U.S.S.R., including Russia. The World Bank has promised \$4 billion in aid to help the Soviet economy, including expert economic advisors.

•A new Japanese Prime Minister has been elected, just three years after he resigned in disgrace from the position of finance minister, as the result of an influence peddling scandal.

•Under the threat of E.C. sanctions, the leaders of six Yugoslavian republics met and voted on a peace plan. Only Serbia turned it down,

perhaps because Croats were attacking the Serbian town of Sid.

•As of November 5, a general strike has been held for the last two days in South Africa, in protest of a new tax. Approximately forty people have been killed.

•In Rome, the regular NATO summit begins Thursday. Among other things, the breakup of the Warsaw Pact will be discussed.

•The civil war in Cambodia is officially over. A peace plan was signed two weeks ago by the government and three rebel groups, including the Khmer Rouge. Exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk will be returning home. However, there are rumors that the Khmer are already stockpiling arms in the countryside.

•English publishing tycoon and owner of the New York Daily News Robert Maxwell has been reported missing at sea.

•Saudi Arabia has announced that it wishes to buy seventy-two new F-15s.

•A bridge in the center of Baghdad has just been reopened. It was destroyed during the Gulf war.

•A whitefly, native to Iraq, may cause a produce shortage in California this year. ☆

Senate Report

by Jim Hilliard

The Student Senate held its most recent meeting on October 29. Senate President Darren Chick talked about his meetings with the Trustees and Calendar Committee representative Barb Saufley

fielded questions about the 1993-1994 academic calendars.

Darren Chick reported that meetings with the trustees went very well. He also asked for input from senators about

the open forum on residence life held on Thursday, October 24. Reactions from the senators were mixed and reflected opinions from students which ranged from "very helpful and beneficial" to "many things need to be changed for something like to accomplish anything."

Barb Saufley addressed the Senate about the proposed 1993-94 academic calendar, especially the schedule for the final four days. According to Saufley, some faculty members would prefer to administer exams on Monday afternoons rather than on Saturdays, as in the past. This change would reduce reading days to two one-half days, as opposed to the former two full days. Senators suggested alternate possibilities at length, and these suggestions will be relayed to the Academic Affairs Council and the Calendar Committee.

Phil Ginter moved for one possibility

to be suggested to the Calendar Committee and his suggestion was approved unanimously by the Senators. The motion is too detailed to discuss in this article; for more information, stop by the Senate Office.

The Chapel Committee reported that CLEW speaker Alistair Begg will be returning to campus for chapel on November 15. You might add that special detail to your calendar.

The Campus Activities Board reported that the concert originally booked for mid-November did not sign a contract before agreeing to do a concert at another venue. Therefore, the concert date scheduled for this semester will be postponed until next semester.

To find out who your student senators are, or if you have any problems Senate may be able to help you with, stop by the Student Senate Office, conveniently located near the mailroom.

Sports Briefs

•**Men's Soccer**...the Highlanders wrapped up the regular season Saturday October 25 with a 6-0 rout of Penn State-Behrend on the road...Jamie Wellington and Dan Dominguez both scored two goals with single tallies from Amos White and Mark Staebell...Wellington and Dominguez finished tied for the team scoring lead with 13 goals apiece...Dominguez's 12 assists ties the season record...HC finished the regular season at 14-1-2, which ties the team record for fewest regular season losses...the Highlanders opened play Saturday November 12 in the NAIA District 18 Championship...behind goals from Randy Levak and Jamie Wellington, Houghton shutout visiting St. Vincent College 2-0...HC outshot their opponents 29-3 enroute to the victory...at 15-1-2, Houghton will face Geneva College (Beaver Falls, PA) for the title in Houghton next Saturday (No-

vember 12)...Geneva defeated Westminster College in Saturday's other semi-final...the winner of the Houghton/Geneva game will advance to the NAIA Area VIII Championship in North Carolina next week.

•**Women's Soccer**...the Lady Highlanders concluded the '91 season on a winning note, defeating visiting Roberts Wesleyan College 3-1...Jenny Smith scored the go ahead goal in the second half.

•**Other Athletic Notes**...Saturday's men's soccer and women's volleyball NAIA District 18 Championships will mark the first time that Houghton has hosted multiple Championships...Houghton has the opportunity to capture four fall season titles (the men's and women's cross country teams won their respective championships earlier)...both men's and women's

basketball teams have opened pre-season practice...the men's team traveled to Indiana Friday and Saturday November 2 and had impressive performances in scrimmages against Manchester College and Taylor University...the women will open their season November 20 at home against D'Youville College...the men will open on the road November 22 in the University of Pittsburgh—Johnstown Tournament.

•**Field Hockey**...Houghton concluded a very successful '91 season with a 2-1 win over Slippery Rock University...the Lady Highlanders finished with a mark of 9-3-2...highlights for the year included a win over Oneonta State and winning the Annual Christian College Invitational in Philadelphia.

•**Cross Country**...after capturing their second straight NAIA District 18 Championship for both the men and the women, Houghton sent a limited team to Clarks Summit, PA for the Christian College Invitational...Naomi Castellani continued her outstanding season winning the women's division...Jon Cole was HC's top man in eighth place...the teams are preparing for their return trip to the NAIA Championship in Wisconsin.

Women's V-Ball Maintains 33-2 Record

by Nathan Ransil

The Houghton College Women's Volleyball team is sitting on a record of 33 wins and two losses as they prepare to play host to the District 18 Tournament here Saturday, November 12.

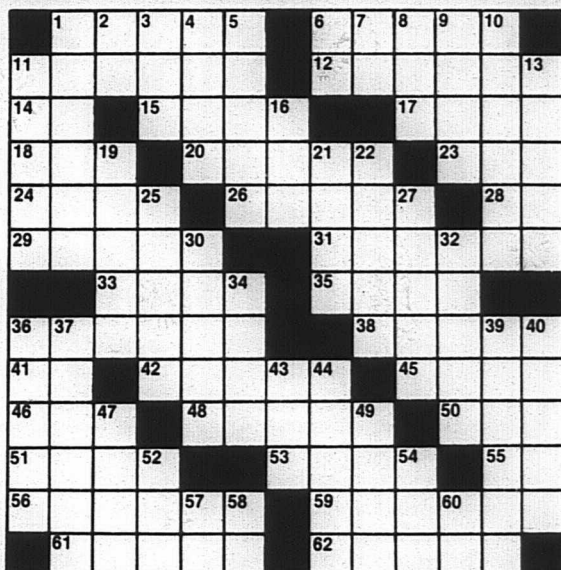
Because they had the best district record for the regular season, Houghton is seeded first in this weekend's tournament. In addition, because of their seeding, Houghton received a bye in the first round of the tournament, and will play against the winner of the match between the fourth and sixth seeded teams with the winner of that match advancing to the district finals. The tentative schedule has Houghton playing at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, and the finals scheduled for approximately 4:00 p.m.

The winner of the District 18 tournament will host Bi-Districts against the champion of a District in West Virginia. The winner of Bi-Districts will join 19 other teams in Kansas for the NAIA Nationals.

Houghton's only loss is the District this year came when they played Carlow in Pittsburgh. This left both schools with identical district records, and meant that last Saturday's match here against Carlow would decide the best record and who would host Districts. In the trimatch on Saturday the team played excellent volleyball beating Pitt-Bradford 15-4, 15-5 in the opener, and conquering Carlow, who was without All-American middle hitter DeAnna Dagget, 15-8, 15-7.

Elise Munyard had 20 assists in 25 attempts for an unheard of 80% efficiency against Pitt-Brad while Heather McLaughlin dug nine and added three kills, and Noelle Gurley popped up six. Christie Brown had ten kills and seven digs against Carlow, and Stacia Dagwell and Sheri Lankford put down seven kills apiece. Heather led in blocking with four, and digging with 14, while tossing in five kills as well. Once again the setters shone, with Elise and Julie Claypool combining for a 42% efficiency, with Julie still finding time for 11 digs.

Head coach Skip Lord says it's "a lot of fun" being 33-2, "but that doesn't mean we're doing anything differently than if we were 2-33. It's just as much a ministry and an educational process. We need to support the athletes no matter what the record." ☆



ACROSS

1. Station
6. Boasts
11. Pea
12. Legislative body
14. We
15. Roman IX
17. Soil
18. It is (poetic)
20. Medicine that restores
23. Variant of no (Japanese)
24. Glimpse
26. Resist
28. Behold!
29. Strip of leather
31. Conceptions
33. Get the better of
35. Sinks
36. Upper end of stamen
38. Ceremonies
41. Eastern state (abbr.)
42. Clips
45. Fork prong
46. Hall!
48. Shoe coverings
50. Hit sharply
51. Safeguard
53. Squad
55. N.E. state (abbr.)
56. Items

59. Without tone
61. Aged
62. Award

DOWN

1. Stop
2. Exempli gratia (abbr.)
3. Play on words
4. Leave out
5. Singing voice
6. College degree (abbr.)
7. 2nd scale note
8. Also
9. Acquire; obtain
10. Walk lazily
11. Stringed instruments
13. Character of certain people
16. Direction (abbr.)
19. Small marine fish food
21. Wading bird
22. Hard wood tree
25. Expensive boat
27. Legitimate (slang)
30. Looks
32. Ado
34. Drop
36. Desist (naut.)
37. Indian tribe
39. Protective coating
40. Calyx of flower
43. Cushion
44. Hot mist
47. Wicked
49. Glut
52. Finis
54. Modern (slang)
57. Symbol for germanium
58. Senior (abbr.)
60. Sodium symbol

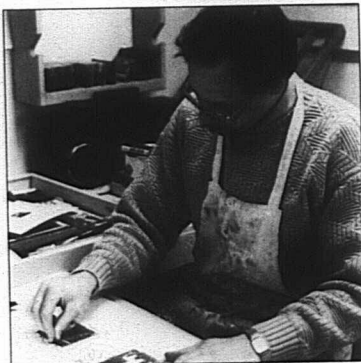
Scot Bennett: Successful Artist and Sportsman

by Ivan T. Rocha

What does a college art professor do with himself during the summer? The first answer that comes to mind is probably the most obvious: work in his or her studio producing all the work that a full schedule of classes makes impossible during the year. While not incorrect, this is not always the only thing art professors do during the summer. Especially Scot Bennett. For the past five summers, Bennett has played fast-pitch softball two nights a week, first in Wellsville and, after that team folded, in Olean. He currently plays for two teams: one, known as The Burton, which is sponsored by a local pub of the same name and plays only during the week, and another, "all-star" team known as the Rumors, which is sponsored by Coors brewery and tours the Northeast on weekends playing other fast-pitch teams in various tournaments. After it won the Mid-Atlantic championship in 1990, Bennett went with this team to Las Vegas to participate in a national competition.

Bennett has always had an avid interest in sports, which he says

comes largely as a result of the constant encouragement he received from his parents as a young boy. Since the age of 6, Bennett has been actively involved in a variety of sports, from fast-pitch softball and baseball to ice hockey, football, volleyball, and badminton—in which he was the Ontario champion for mixed doubles several years ago. Ice hockey, however, was probably Bennett's strongest, and throughout high school he played goalie in Canada's prestigious



Bennett at work. (Star photo)

junior league—usually an open door for recruitment into the professional teams. A knee injury cut short Bennett's aspirations to a career in ice hockey and, although he had the chance to attempt a risky medical procedure involving freezing the affected joint, he thought it more sensible to go on to college instead. After a year off due to a back injury, Bennett plans to return to the hockey rink one night a week beginning this fall in a similar arrangement to his involvement with fast-pitch softball during the summer.

According to Bennett, fast-pitch

softball can become quite expensive (between \$500 and \$800 a summer), time-consuming, and can affect family life. Much of the time and expense are the result of constant travels with the team, where lodging, gas, and food are paid out of each member's pocket. Some of this expense is occasionally absorbed by money awarded to the players after a victory. The constant traveling and the relative unpredictability of a team's performance are not factors which make for stable family life. As a result, Bennett, who has two young children, is considering reducing his summer commitment to fast-pitch in order to devote more time to his family.

On the field, Bennett is one of the team's two pitchers and has been playing this position ever since he moved from the Wellsville league to Olean. There is, he says, a degree of rivalry between the two pitchers, and it is often difficult to prevent the game from becoming more than a simple diversion. In the batting line-up, Bennett is a power hitter, usually number four. Optimistic about the future and about his physical conditions, Bennett thinks he can continue to pitch for at least another ten years, if not longer.

When asked why he enjoys this parallel summer career so much, Bennett gives a typically Houghtonian answer: it helps to break the routine of Houghton life. In addition, Bennett has found it beneficial and character-building to be involved with a group of non-Christians on a regular basis. This, he says, is possibly their only contact with a believer, and has good potential for testimony. Above all, says Bennett, fast-pitch is a very good form of recreation and is far more exciting to an avid sportsman like himself than its slow-pitch equivalent.

To Bennett, sports are fine, but the job has priority. As a result, his career as a visual artist is gaining considerable momentum as various galleries and churches in Albany are showing a growing interest in his work. ☆

FLIP SIDES

by Kelly Patterson

"**V**anity, vanity, all is vanity... Oh God, don't let me die in an elevator." Picture it... 4:00 in the afternoon, in the kitchen. I had just finished making a ton of pizza dough for family night, and I was on my way down to Big Al's to deliver it. Of course, I was in the elevator. I've always had a strange feeling about that elevator, hearing evil cackles resound from within its walls as I step inside. The Preying Mantis, the Venus Flytrap, whatever, this day, I was the innocent victim.

On my voyage down to the basement, I accidentally leaned against the stop button, which, by the way, is named very accurately. It makes the elevator come to a screeching halt soon after being touched. And then, realizing what I had done, I pushed the "run" lever to correct my inane mistake. This, however, did not help. So, being the calm, collected person that I am, I began to push, pull, tug at and mangle every button within reach. This also turned up fruitless. Then, I saw a small red object I had not tried yet. It read, in bold lettering, **ALARM**. Hey, what the heck, I'll try it. My index finger lightly touched it, and this heinous noise resulted. I mean, this sound could make small Chihuahuas heads explode. But, I kept the button depressed until I, myself, became depressed.

I then resigned myself to the situation, and began to look around at my prison cell. I noticed the fan on the ceiling to circulate air, and I thought, "I could stay here forever and live. I'll eat the pizza dough and, and... UGHH! SOMEONE HELP! Panic had struck. I kept thinking that days would go by without noticing my absence. And then, by the

time they rescued me, I would be 20 pounds lighter and severely dehydrated, that was the bad side. The good side was that I could start my own diet plan. I would call it: the "Stuck-in-the-elevator-for-weeks-burn-the-fat" diet.

I sat down on the floor and started to listen. The fan's droning hum, and, I could hear God's voice. Constant reassurance that everything would be O.K. "Why are you in such a hurry?" "Well, God, maybe because, even though I'm not claustrophobic, this was scary... or maybe because I have a lot to do." "What?" "Well, I don't have anything to do NOW, but I'm sure something will come up." Maybe I was just trying to ignore the fact that I've been ignoring God lately. And even when I don't ignore him, I never give him credit for his presence in my life.

I realized that the past few weeks, I have been very vain. Vanity, as told in Ecclesiastes, is not a pretty thing. It makes you self-centered and you end up

losing that fire for Christian service. I found myself thinking, "Yeah, I am a pretty good writer" when people started to compliment me. I found myself ignoring God and going about my business thinking I was in complete control. And that is vanity, plain and ugly. Until, of course, I got stuck in the elevator.

Then, I was NOT in control. There was nothing I could do but sit, wait, and pray. Really pray, not the praying I've been doing lately with the, "Now I lay me down to sleep, bless me and my roommate with the weird hair, help me decide what major to choose..." but, "Oh God you are so awesome, I praise your ability to guide me through life minute by minute."

I ended up spiritually thinking more in those 15 minutes in the elevator than I usually do in a day. And in the end, I praised God for his unique way of bringing his children back to him. For some, it may be through a road sign, for others, a person, or in my case, an elevator. And I also praised him when I heard a voice yell, "Is someone up there?", and my mind began reciting the phrase, "Free at last, Free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last."

So, the moral to the Flip Side is this: Never let Vanity creep up on you like Donna Hills in the campus center and never, ever, lean against the stop lever in that elevator.

WHEN I HAVE FEARS

Keats

When I have fears that I may cease to be
Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain;
Before high piled books, in charact'ry,
Hold like rich garners the full ripened grain;
When I behold, upon the night's starred face,
Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,
And I think that I may never live to trace
Their shadows, with the magic hand of chance;
And when I feel, fair creature of an hour,
That I shall look upon thee more,
Never have relish in the faery power
Of an unreflecting love—then on the shore
Of the wide world I stand alone, and think
till love and nothingness do sink. ☆

Blackberries

by Johnathan Wydysh

To my dear and favorite nephew William,

Two years ago when your father told me of his plans to enter you at Durham into our Order I could have not been more thankful to our Lord. So I thought, until this day as I heard of your departure from the secular world into this life of holiness. If ever there has been a Birden suited for the order it is you. From the day of your christening I have expected great things for you. As I sprinkled the holy water upon your naked pate I dreamt a waking dream of a dove descending over you as it was with our Savior at his baptism on the Jordan by Saint John. Alas, however, though I strained to hear, no voice from heaven was forthcoming. Even then I knew you were bound to wear the monk's crown.

So, dear son of my eldest sister; or should I say novice brother William: Welcome to the order of Saint Benedict. I send to you along with this letter my personal copy of *The Philosopher's Poetics* that was translated by the great systematizer Saint Thomas Aquinas, for your lectio divina. You will not have much use for it until you have more of a mastery of your Latin. I hope that this fine book promotes your diligent study. Ah William, I see a day when perhaps you may take my place as prior of Stamford. Yet I am only a poor and humble prior. You, my dear lad, hold so much promise and quickness of wit. Perhaps our Lord God has more than a mere priorship in store for you. Perhaps you will reach the humility and servanthood of our great patron Saint Cuthbert. It was by no accident that you were joined to the holy order on the twentieth day of March.

Your older brother bids you kind greetings and says many good words of you, your chastity and humility. He is saddened by your absence and says that the room he shared with you is much emptier now that you are gone. He says that no one is more deserving of the honor you have received and he only wishes God our Father in Heaven would have seen to it to have made him the third born, but alas he is by

Providence's greater wisdom confined to the dreary life of a courtier preparing to look after your father's estates.

Parchment is scarce so I am sending to you a clear piece to write a reply. Do so soon so that I may know how best to pray for you. I am still remembered at Durham and my words hold some sway. I will do all that is in my power to be sure you are cared for. Your may as well know that very few are admitted to the Durham Priory.

A word of advice before I close: do not read too long after compline. Matins comes too soon and too we lost a total of two brothers since I have been Prior. They went to be with the Lord having fallen asleep while reading their candles caught fire to their bedding. They crisped their bodies and the insides of their cells. It was tragic, excellent manuscripts were lost in both cases.

Thank the Lord God on High that they were not our only two volumes of those particular books.

Pax Vobiscum
Prior Barton, Uncle Richard

Dear Uncle Dick,

Thank you for the suggestion of self immolation. If it's my only way out of here I may just use it. Perhaps I'll get lucky and take this godrotted place with me. I don't know who to thank more for my misery you, or my father for putting me here? This place is stupendous! And the most confounding thing is that most of the monks here, all of whom are men, want to be here. I take it back, more amazing yet is that these people are happy here. Had not father threatened me with conscription into the army if I did not join I would not be here. I know that a few years ago I said I wanted to be a monk but that was before I liked girls. Celibacy and life, however, suit me better than dying to the blood curdling sound of scottish warpipes. Some choice I was left. It was no choice at all and for

what reason? Only this. I am the son of a minor lord and related to the famous Prior of Stamford. What praises shall I sing for these blessings? The only good of this place is that you may read for hours. Which is wonderful except for those nasty interruptions we have six times a day.

You needn't worry of me falling asleep. The walls of my cell are parchment thin and the two fellows I entered with flank me. Their rattlings, murmurings, shiftings and snorings coupled with a mean draft keep me shivering and vigilant until matins. After matins I faint only to be dragged into another day of misery even before dawn's breaking.

The food here is the most unpalatable stuff that I have ever tried to ingest. It is served lukewarm and need, for the most part, not be chewed such is its consistency. It is foul stuff. It makes you pass poison-smelling wind. Once during silent meditation after the antiphon in high mass it sounded like a choir of geese were hiding beneath the benches as we knelt in reverent prayer. Mine was the task of controlling my mirth. Twice did I have to bite through my upper and lower lips as tears ran freely down my purple face. So strong were my urges to laugh. My sides ached so much that I thought that I would not be able to move from my spot.

This habit is unbearably itchy. I do believe it must have been worn first by old Saint Cuthbert himself for the tatters it is in. Whoever it was that last wore it had fleas. Needless to say, with the exception of a multitude of accessible books and the excellent instruction I am receiving, all is wretched. Thank you for Aristotle. I am already into it.

By the way, I could use a move to a cell closer to the chimney and a new cloak. Perhaps if these two humble requests could be granted I would have a better attitude about this place. Is there anything that can be done about the food? It is so . . . repitious.

Tell my dear eldest brother that my heart goes out to him as do my prayers for his welfare. Also relay to him that though this is indeed a wondrous privilege that for his sake would I gladly and selflessly give up my position as second son thirdborn to him so that he could be here in my stead.

Pax Vobiscum
Your loving nephew William Birden

MAIL

Dear Editors:

Christ's Great Commission contains a Mandate for a Christian culture among those who are fellow believers in Christ: "Teaching them to observe (obey, guard) all things, whatsoever I have commanded you—" (Matt. 28:20a). Certainly our homes and Church institutions should be brought into order in compliance with this command. So there is a need of teaching—and *Doonesbury* is no exception: our own home had a policy of tearing out of secular magazines the ads that did not conform to a Christian cultural standard. This silent reaction was also applied to radio, and we further eliminated the programs which were supported by such ads. Censorship? Sure! That's what the Mandate calls for when it's all a person can do. If you don't do anything against evil, evil has done something to you!

During World War II one of my workers came in with red eyes, and I asked him about it. He said he had just learned that his son was a smoker. I could see that it touched him deeply. Later I asked him if he had liquor and tobacco ads in his home. Affirmative. "Go home and apologize to your son for not telling him that they should be torn out." To keep a short version shorter, he came back beaming. His son said, "Why Dad, I got the idea that though you and Mom didn't smoke, you really didn't care if I chose to. Of course I'll quit!"

Vice is a monster, so hideous of mien
That to be hated is but to be seen;
Yet, seen too often—familiar with its

face—

We first endure, then pity, then
embrace!

What is your duty as Christian editors on a Christian campus? Censor *Doonesbury*? In a garbage can it is hard to find anything that isn't tainted, especially when the container is a mind! Whatever your decisions, they should be based on a principle of guarding the Christian culture, rather than exposing it to scorn and erosion under the influence of the world.

Sincerely,
S. Hugh Paine

☆☆☆

Editor,

I am a part time security officer here at Houghton College and for the most part I enjoy my work. As a security officer my job is to enforce college policy and rules as set down by the Board of Trustees and the Administration. I know full well that some students do not agree with some of these policies. The college has many appropriate channels for handling this.

I am saddened that last night (Oct. 28) as I was at work someone chose an inappropriate method of protest. Someone slashed a tire on my car. Now I have no proof that it was a college student who did it except that in my rounds I saw no outsiders on campus and students were out pulling pranks.

While this act may have eased

someone else's frustration, it added to mine. You see, as a part time security officer and a part time pastor I'm going to have a very difficult time finding the \$66.00 to pay for a new tire. I'm going to have an even harder time explaining to my children why Christmas is going to be a little bit leaner than usual because a student at a Christian college thought slashing a tire was a fun thing to do.

I do not make the rules. I have very little influence on those who do. My job is to enforce the rules. If I did not, I would be fired, and since my church is paying me as much as it can, I cannot afford to be fired. I have four children who are quite fond of eating, among other things. So to that individual or group who stuck a knife in my tire last night, I want you to know that I will continue to enforce the college rules equally and fairly as Jesus would have me to do. I will struggle a little while with Jesus' command to forgive those who sin against you. But I'm not sure how to explain this to my kids. Perhaps you can help?

Robert Marshall (Security Officer)

☆☆☆

Dear Martha and Ivan,

Thank you for doing such a great job with this year's *Star*. I have been so impressed by the numerous issues which you have covered, and also by the timeliness of their release.

As I have read the *Star* this semester, I have been impressed and appreciative of the diverse opinions which you have tolerated from the student body. It is frightfully sad that we, as students, have become so closed-minded to all other opinions that we no longer can analyze, critically, the arguments of others. It seems that at a liberal arts college, we could at least have the sensitivity to hear each other out and perhaps,

Mail

continues...

dare I say it, try to see something through someone else's eyes?! Just a thought!

Also, can you explain to me this concept of **bashing and bashers**? Every time someone writes an article of strong opinion, it seems that someone else must respond equally strong for the opposite? Forgive me, for indeed I am aware of the physical law, "...for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction..." but it seems that we, as a Christian Campus, could no, **should** respond differently. Could we as a student body offer **CONSTRUCTIVE** criticism? I apologize if I am introducing a new concept to your readers, but I think we could benefit each other greatly by offering a "friendly critique", as opposed to our usual, hmmm..."responses."

Could we, *could I*, grow up? It is too late for us to realize that which we are inadvertently learning while at Houghton? No, we **can still** learn. There is time for us to realize, respect and **even** appreciate the different ideas of others. Let's try to be constructive. Ivan, Martha, you are doing an excellent job with the *Star*, your staff is solid and your provocative columns are challenging.

Thank you for putting up with this...stuff.

Appreciating your work,
Darren R. Chick

The Black Hole

M. L. TAYLOR

Well, there I was, in the Star office, typing yet another derogatory article and lo-and-behold this fly lands on the "s" key. I stared in disbelief for what seemed like minutes, proceeded with the old swipe to the fly and accidentally hit the key the little bugger was sitting on. This member of the *annoyus perpetuum* wasn't about to give me much rest as I would later discover.

The "s," of course, was typed so I erased it immediately. Then, to my surprise, the little so-and-so landed on the same key. So I did the same thing as before and he landed on yet another key in return to my futile attempt to squish the living gajombas out of him. I was in perpetual peck mode on the keyboard, hitting keys and missing with all the flair of a true *homo sapiens* and his inept reflexes. So I frantically swatted and smashed, much to the dislike of my editor (and the Mac), but to no avail. When I zigged, he zagged and so forth...you get the picture, right?

This went on for about twenty minutes until he finally gave up and flew off to annoy another hard working male to my left. Afterwards, panting like a Husky in Virginia mid-July, I looked at the screen and, aghast, realized that I had inadvertently typed something that had been both spell- and grammar-checked into a coherent message.

Roughly transcribed and edited, it read as follows:

We are the members of the FlyRA, a miniature, radical terrorist group, and we are making our first announcement to the general public via this publication. I [the Fly] have been sent to inform you that a major takeover of the entire east coast is imminent within the next hours if all our demands are not met unconditionally.

You may not have discovered this, but we have been using Houghton as a central breeding base in an attempt to increase populations to maximum potential for an all-out assault on the human race.

We are tired of all of the recent restrictions on garbage collection activities in this part of the country. We demand an end to this "recycling." It robs us of our natural breeding facilities and major food resources. We demand more waste!

We are also sick to death of those tacky "RAID" commercials that you waste your time pushing on yourselves in a futile effort to commit unlawful genocide. You only poison yourselves and give us a chance to get oneupmanship on the evolutionary scale. So, why bother? You only "RAID" yourselves in the end. Deal with it or deal with our wrath!

We demand that no instruments other than natural human appendages be implemented in the attempt to destroy us on an individual basis. The use of "flyswatters," media, shoes, towels, wet rags, and the occasional cat is not fair play. It narrows the reaction time gap and makes our little respiratory systems go all freaky.

Be forewarned, Houghton. "The Plague" is at hand. We will destroy you by exhausting your limbs with our amazing feats of agility and puking on your appendages—hey, it's the only way we can digest your rotten flesh, okay? We will bring you death from above by spreading all of those little germey things to your feeble, enormous, bodies, making you ralph and dehydrate to extinction.

If these demands are not met within the hour you will pay dearly for your transgressions to our meek and humble race.

Let Freedom Buzz!



